

### **Provider Guidance-Anthrax**

- Cipro and doxycycline are equally effective.
- Consider prophylaxis for asymptomatic persons who:
  - Work closely with suspected or confirmed local anthrax cases
  - Have direct contact or ventilation system exposure to powder or materials known or suspected to contain anthrax
  - Are advised by local public health officials to take prophylaxis
  - Collect environmental samples in buildings where anthrax is found or strongly suspected
- Give prophylaxis for 10 days initially. Continue prophylaxis for 60 days based on laboratory confirmed anthrax exposure and/or epidemiological investigation.
- Obtain nasal swab for Culture & Sensitivity if:
  - Person is considered potentially exposed
  - Requested by public health officials



U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and  
Preventive Medicine  
(800) 222-9698/ DSN 584-4375/(410) 436-4375  
<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil>

### **Reassuring Patients**

- Understand patients are concerned.
- Encourage patients to get a flu shot.
- Testing and preventive treatment is currently directed only to those who were or are likely to be exposed.
- The risk to persons outside of mail rooms is unknown, but is currently believed to be small.
- Keep up with CDC health advisories.
- Encourage patients to report any respiratory symptoms early if potential exposure is credible.
- Anthrax disease is treatable when detected early.